# Walk in Their Footsteps Even If You Do So Alone!

Many successive generations of Muslims have come and gone with millions of them now forgotten. However, a few remain prominent and unforgettable in the annals of history. Allah etched these few into the collective memory of humanity, to be recalled and mentioned to this day, much like they etched their own names into the rocks of time with letters of sacrifice and jihad, until death claimed them. For those who came after them, they are an example of how to emulate the prophets and messengers, in waging and winning battles against doubt and desire, overcoming them to move on to the battle of changing reality, rather than succumbing to it as many people today are doing.

In our current times, a group of the sons of Islam, followed these great heroes, walking in the footsteps of the predecessors fighting the same battle in all its phases, until they attained one of the two good outcomes.

At a time when most people resigned themselves to the status quo, these heroes were swimming against the tide of these surrendering masses, and refusing to submit to the pressure of the majority that called on them to acquiesce, because Allah Almighty guided them and made them aware that the reality to which people yielded is of their own making! That changing this reality begins with the person himself, and that the worshipper by his inactivity and inaction is a partner in making this bitter reality. Our Almighty Lord said: "Indeed, Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves". Nothing will change if each of us sits lamenting his luck and crying about the tragedies of Muslims and empathizing with their injuries. For, as soon as this wave of emotion dissipates, and the scene of tragedy in front of us disappears we will return to again take our place in the midst of the sitting scum, waiting for another scene that draws tears, not blood! And that calls for passion, not faith!

Shaykh Abu Umar al-Baghdadi - may Allah have mercy on him - put his hand on this old wound when he called to the Ummah of Islam, saying: "People of Islam, today we do not need someone who sheds tears and composes slogans. Today, we need sacrifice. We need him who when he hear the words of Allah Almighty 'O believers! March forth whether it is easy or difficult for you," flies out of his bed and stumps, shaking off the burden of cowardice and subservience, and rides the mount of jihad, true in sentiment and action". In an era where words are many but action is scarce, the shaykh demonstrated through his deeds these healing words: “We are not ones who shed tears and cry, sitting like women, this was not and will not be our way, for our blood is cheap when it comes to the defense of religion and honor.” His end came in blood! Tears are the consolation of the frustrated, of faint determination, who cry like women over a reality that they fail to change like men! The Muslim is obligated to fulfill what he owes Allah, for He does not wait for people's support or help. Whether people fulfill their obligation or stand down, advance or fall back, He will destroy the scum. Contemplate what the Exalted Allah said to His Messenger ﷺ: "So, fight in the cause of Allah (O Prophet). You are accountable for none but yourself. And motivate the believers (to fight), so perhaps Allah will curb the disbelievers' might. And Allah is far superior in might and in punishment". A Muslim will not be asked why someone else did not act, but he will be asked why he did not obey the Almighty Allah’s commands, and instead sat looking left and right, saying to himself "I am part of this group, if they fall I fall and if they find guidance then I am guided!" Therefore, the first step is to separate oneself from the chaos of these crowds running after their desires, and to emulate the righteous who, with blood, inked their advice, and understood what Allah wanted from them. Thus, they shook off the dust of humiliation, rose up in the face of reality, and saddled the horses of glory, to build for their nation what was demolished by its enemies in centuries of ideological and moral warfare.

The Ummah today is in need of strong men, men who hold true to their promises to Allah, who do not retreat halfway down the path nor abandon it; who do not tire of the long road nor underestimate it; who are not in a rush for victory nor delay it. Instead, the ummah needs the elite who turn their backs to the world, who do not care about the scarcity of those who walk with them or the rants of the stubborn. O slave to Allah, if He grants you – the opportunity to join their caravan - beware of the immediate excitement, for the road is long and lonely, stained with blood and heavy trials. Deep emotions and strong reactions can only carry you through for a short time, then you will be handed the real provision on which you can rely to be able to continue on. That provision is the taqwa of Allah Almighty, as your Lord, glory be to Him, said: "The best provision is piety". So, fearing Allah, in secret and in public, is the fuel that enables you to continue. Allah willing - whenever you are faced with trials, or hardships are piled upon you, you will walk on, with Allah's blessing, fully aware, and you will not go astray as long as the Book and the Sunnah are your guides and influence. Around you are the kuffar who have filled the world with their kufr, fought the religion of your master, killed your brothers and rendered them homeless. You will find a way to avenge yourself and believing people in the east and west of the earth. Whoever puts his trust in Allah, He will be sufficient for him, facilitate his affairs, guide him, and will save him from being one of many scum.

Whoever follows this severe path, which the lovers of the dunya are unable to do, and upon which those who claim to be pious are tested, does not pay attention to the crowds that will tell him that at the end of this road is damnation. How can it lead to damnation when our Creator led us to it?! And the prophets and the righteous before us walked on it?! So take this path, even if you do so alone, for Abu Baseer - may Allah be pleased with him - did not wait for anyone when the kuffar of Quraysh were afflicted with calamities. The first predecessors did not wait for the influx of bay'at, to join the religion of Allah. Reflect upon the strangeness of the Sahabah as they marched alone to Yemen, Rome or Persia, to follow - all alone - the path of truth despite the waves of kufr around them. Do not encumber anyone but yourself, for you are from the lineage of Ibrahim, the dear one - peace be upon him - who was a nation in himself, and "Allah will certainly help those who stand up for Him. Allah is truly All-Powerful, Almighty".